The Pleasant History of

Cawwood the Rook.

OR, THE

Assembly of Birds.

With the several Speeches which the Birds made to the

EAGLE:

in hope to have the Goverment in his absence.

And lastly, How the *ROOK* was banished; With the reason why Crafty fellows are called *ROOKS*.

As also fit *Morrals* and *Expositions* added to every Chapter.

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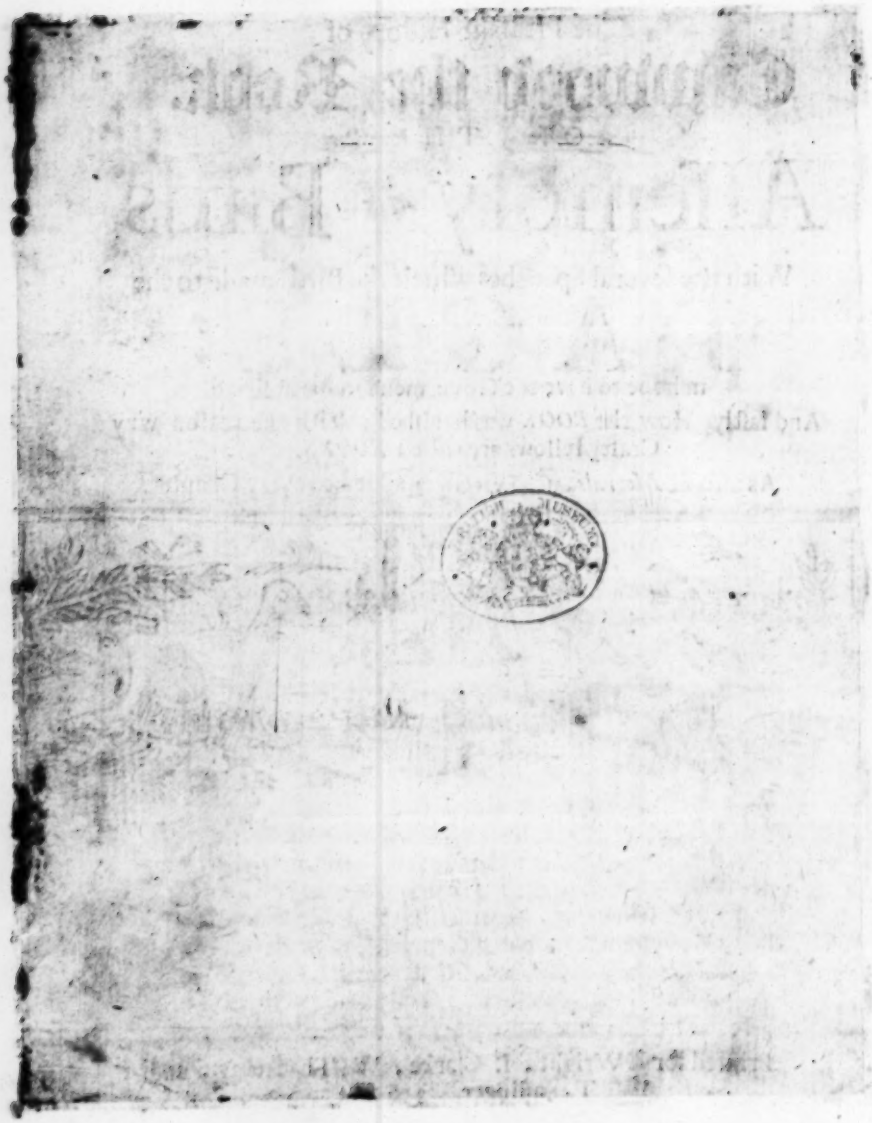

THE

Pleſant Hiſtory

OF

Gawwood the Rook.

CHAP. I.

IN the heat of Summer, when the Woods were lined with pleaſant ſhades, and filled with the chearful muſick of the feathered Quiriſters, it happened that the Eagle, the Royal King of Birds, intending to leave off his Government a while, and to live ſolitary in the Deſarts of Arabia, made a Proclamation as he thought in this manner following. That having he purpoſed for ſome weighty Reaſons beſt known unto himſelf, to retire unto the Arabian Deſarts, and for ſome few Months to leave off his Rule and Dominion; he therefore requiring the welfare of his Subjects, and being careful they might not want one

in his abſence to adminiſter Juſtice unto them, thought good to ſignifie his Royal Will and Pleaſure, which was, That all Birds, of what Name, Colour, or degree ſoever, ſhould repair unto the Wood called Sylvia; and that there he purpoſed to chuſe one amongſt them to rule the reſt, who could declare himſelf to be moſt worthy in merit and deſert. This Proclamation being Written, and Subſcribed with Aquila Rex avium; which is in Engliſh, The *Eagle* King of Birds:

It was no ſooner made known through all Thickets, Hedges, and lufty Fields where Birds do reſort, but that preſently their hearts were inflamed with ambition, every one deſiring to prove himſelf worthy of the Vice-regency, or Government, during the retiring of the King. So that in a ſhort time, there were come unto the Court of Sylvia, Rubert the Robin, Mavis the Magpye, Phillip the Sparrow, the Blackbird, Sterling, and Jackdaw, with Philomel the Nightingale, Tom Titmouſe,

Titmouſe, Parvis the Wren, Spincke the Finch, Columber the Dove, and Maybird the Cuckoo; with many others which came with prepared Speeches to make known their own worth and merit. But now the Eagle having ſeated himſelf on a high Cedar Tree, began to look down upon the aſſembly of Birds, who ſat upon the lower boughs round about him; and by the piercing quickneſs of his Eye, he ſoon perceived that his Couſin Rapax the Hawk (who was ſomewhat a Kin unto him) and likewiſe Cawwood the Rook, were only abſent. So that before he would make known his mind unto them, he ſent Flywell the Buzzard for his Couſin Rapax the Hawk, and likewiſe for Cawwood the Rook; and withal, (fearing that his Couſin Rapax the Hawk, kept out of the way, becauſe he had formerly committed many Outrages upon the ſmaller Birds) ſent him a free Pardon for all his former Offences, bidding Flywell to command him to come away with all ſpeed.

The Morral.

THere is no man hath ſo mean a conceit of himſelf, but he thinketh he deſerveth Honour and preferment, as may appear by the *Wren*, and the other ſmall Birds, who all reſorted to the Court upon the *Eagles* Proclamation, to make the moſt worthy Vice-gerent in his abſence. The *Hawk* and the *Rook* keeping themſelves away from the Court, doth ſhew that guilty Conſcience is a ſelf-accuſer, and maketh men afraid to come in ſight, eſpecially at any publick meeting.

CHAP. II.

How *Flywell* the *Buzzard* carried a Pardon to *Rapax* the *Hawk*; and how the *Hawk* and the *Rook* requited him for his pains.

NO ſooner had Flywell the Buzzard tyed the Pardon with a ſtring round about his Neck, but ſtraight he took

took Wing, and flew away to a Wood ſome three miles off, to which he knew the Hawk and the Rook did uſe to reſort, and there accordingly he ſoon met with them, and delivered the Pardon to the Hawk, telling him, That the King (out of his free mercy) had vouchſafed to ſend him a Pardon for all his former bloody facts, wiſhing him to obey the former Proclamation, and to make all haſte that could be, to come unto the Court. The Hawk took the Pardon, and having read it, he gave Flywell the Buzzard many thanks, for that he being ſo ſhort of wing, had took the pains to bring him theſe good Tydings; and ſo walking aſide with Cawwood the Rook, as if they had conſulted about going to the Court, the Hawk told the Rook, That this Buzzard, (albeit he was a Kin unto him) was a ſhame and diſgrace unto all Hawks, being a Coward, and not daring to ceaſe on any thing but dead Carrion, or ſome ſcattered Guts, or take Childrens bread and butter out of their hands; all which doth plainly ſhew the baſeneſs of his breeding, and that he never came out of the true Neſt, or Airy of the Hawks; and therefore, friend Rook, ſeeing thou haſt been accounted a cunning Politician in thy days, I would intreat thee, at this time, to inſtruct me in ſome Device how we might make him away, and yet neither of us be known to have any hand in the matter: The Rook ſcratching his Head with one of his Claws, and ſtanding ſtill a while, as in amaze, at laſt turning to the Hawk, with a ſerious look, he told him, That there was a new Invention come into his brain how to make away the Buzzard, and to ſet him going with a powder. After this they returned again unto Flywell the Buzzard, who never ſuſpected what they had contrived againſt him, but complained unto them, That he had gotten a great Cold in his head, by lying ſo late in a rainy day, he being onely uſed to haunt Warrens, and to fly from one old Tree to another. But no ſooner had the Rook heard him ſay that he had gotten a Cold, but he preſently took hold of the occaſion, telling him that there was no better Medicine in the world for a Cold, than warmth; and therefore, if he would but tye his Head about with a Cloath,

he

he ſhould find that the Rhume would preſently void it ſelf and run out of his Beak in a great abundance. The Buzzard being full of pain with the Head-ach, conſented thereunto, ſo that the Rook very carefully and cunningly eyed a Clout round about his head, and ſo bid him flye to the next Tree: The fooliſh Buzzard thinking he could find out the way for all he was blindfolded, took wing, and flew directly againſt the body of a great Oak, which beat him back ſo violently, that he came fluttering through the boughs, till at laſt he accidentally caught hold on one of them with his talons, and ſo having pearch'd himſelf, he thought to ſit there, till the Hawk

and Rook, his learn'd Phyſitians, did come unto him; but they flew to another tree hard by, from whence they might behold the Buzzard ſitting very demurely by himſelf. But he

had

had not ſat there long, when it hapned that one came by with a Fowling-piece, and perceiving ſo fair a mark, went towards him, and taking his aim, gave fire, and ſhot the Buzzard, that he came tumbling down ſtark dead. Which when the Rook and the Hawk perceived, they flew away towards the Court, the Hawk being very glad that his Couſin Buzzard was deprived of his life; and ſo giving the Rook many thanks for inventing this device which had ſo luckily took effect, they both flew together to the Court.

The Morral.

SOme are ſo blind-folded that they cannot diſcern danger before it come upon them, as may appear by the *Buzzard*, who ſat blind-folded in the tree, till the Fowler came by and ſhot him. The *Hawk* bringing his Couſin *Buzzard* to an untimely death, ſheweth, that the rich do deſpiſe their poor Kindred, and ſo do expoſe them to danger.

CHAP. III.

How *Rapax* the *Hawk*, and *Cawwood* the *Rook* came to the Court, and how the *Eagle* declared unto the Birds the reaſon why he called them together.

THe Eagle being, as before, mounted upon a Cedar all the Birds in a Circle ſat round about him, making ſuch a charm of ſeveral notes, tunes, and ditties, that if you had but heard them, you would have ſworn you had never heard the like. As they were thus ſitting together, in came the Hawk, and the Rook, and took their places amongſt the other birds. And ſo the Hawk having made obeyſance to the King, began in an eloquent Speech, to amplifie the Kings mercy, who had not only granted him a free Pardon for all his former bloody Offences, but alſo ſafe Protection to come unto that

place,

place. But the Eagle cut him off in his speech, saying, Cousin, I hope my Merry shall find that Reward which I expect, which is, That you will amend your Life, for that is the best way to give me Thanks, and satisfie the whole Common-wealth of Birds, who else, though they dare not speak it openly, yet in their hearts, they will condemn me of Injustice, for remitting the bloody murthers and slaughters of my Subjects, which you have daily committed. But I have other matters to declare unto you, and therefore I would have you give attention: and so with his Scepter (which he held in one of his Talons) making a sign unto them for silence, he began his Royal Speech in this manner: My loving Subjects, from the highest to the Lowest: I do therefore here confess, that all my Subjects are equally dear unto me, so that my Cousin the Hawk, is not more dear unto me then the little Wren. It behoveth me therefore, That as I have made known my purpose unto you by my Proclamation, which is, to leave my Court of Sylvia, and flie into the solitary Deserts of Arabia: for it is necessary for the Establishing of Peace and Quiet in my absence, I leave one to Rule and Govern over you; and to this end, I have called you to this Assembly, that whatsoever Bird among you can prove himself to be the worthiest, either by Parentage, Merit, or Desert, or any other way, him will I make King in my absence. Therefore let every one speak boldly in behalf of themselves, and urge what Reasons they can in their practice. The Birds hearing this, began to clap their Wings, and with Chirruping and Chattering, gave a great Applause to the Eagles Speech.

The Morral.

THat when a Wicked Offender receives mercy, either from the King, or a Magistrate, he cannot shew more Thankfulness than by amending his Life: for so the Kingly *Eagle* told his Cousin *Roger the Hawk*, King ought to take Care of their Subjects in their Absence, as

appeareth by the *Eagles* Speech to the Commonalty of Birds, whoſe rejoycing thereat, doth ſhew how acceptable the gracious Speech of a King is to his loving Subjects.

How *Parvis* the *Wren* made a Speech to the *Eagle*.

The Wren all this while ſat upon Thorns, though indeed ſhe were now upon a higher Tree than ever ſhe was in her life before, being always wont to creep and peep in the Hedge bottom, and therefore it ſeems that the height of the Tree had put high Conceits in her head; ſo that perking up her ſelf, and getting upon a ſmall twigg, from whence ſhe might be ſeen of all the Company, ſhe began moſt earneſtly to deſire the Kingly Eagle to make her his Subſtitute, for, ſays ſhe, though I am but a Wren, and of a ſmall body, yet my heart is as big as the beſt: and for my Wit and Policy, you may ſee it in building my Neſt, and the Workmanſhip thereof. And therefore though I am the leaſt of Birds, yet if you pleaſe, I think my ſelf worthy to bear the greateſt Authority among the Birds. The Wren had ſtill have gone on, being all heart and tongue; but that the Eagle commanded Rupert the Robin to ſpeak next.

The Morral.

This ſheweth, That men of leaſt deſert, will put themſelves moſt forward; as it is ſeen by the *Wren*, preferring her ſelf above all other Birds: And the reaſon is, becauſe thoſe that have the leaſt worth, have the greateſt Opinion of themſelves.

How *Rupert* the *Robin* ſpake to the *Eagle*.

My Lord the Eagle, I hope Rupert the Robin is not unknown unto you, whom Men, Women, and Children, do Love, Honour, and Reſpect; no Piece is diſcharged againſt me, no Snare is ſet for me, ſo that I live with liberty into Houſes, Butteries, and Cellers, becauſe no

no man will hurt a Robin. The reaſon why I am beloved, is for my Courteſie and Familiarity towards men; for if I find a dead Body in the Woods, I and the reſt of my Fellows do Bury it with Moſs and Leaves, and for this I am called the Sexton of the Woods: Beſides, I ſing in Winter, neither can the coldeſt Froſts put me down, when all the other Birds, like Cowards, creep into Buſhes: I therefore having the better heart, and being generally beloved, do know no reaſon why I may not Govern the Common-wealth of Birds in your Royal abſence.

The Morral.

IT is ſome Argument of worth in our ſelves, when we are beloved of others, as appears by the *Speech* of *Robert* the *Robin*, who urges it as a praiſe unto himſelf, to be beloved of men.

The *Owl*'s *Speech*.

THe Owle being not in thoſe times afraid of the other Birds, but eſteemed as a grave Counſellour, began to ſpeak next; but with ſuch a hollow voice, as no man could underſtand him; yet ſome of his Words were to this purpoſe: May it pleaſe your Royal Eagleſhip, the Owl was beloved of Pallas, and the Lacedemonians did Coyn their Money with the Stamp and Picture of an Owle, ſo much did the Lacedemonians love me. But the Birds hearing the Owle ſpeak of the Lacedemonians, they fell all into a confuſed Chirping or Laughter, ſo that the Owle, without taking any leave, fled away; and ever ſince that time, hath hid his head in an old Ivy Tree, being aſhamed of Day-light, and ſhunning the company of other Birds.

The Morral.

THat when men will ſtrive to ſhew Learning at unſeaſonable times, it makes them prove ridiculous, as appears by the *Owle*, who was laught at for his Learned Speech of the *Lacedemonians*.

The Speech of *Philomel* the *Nightingal*.

After the Owl was laughed out of countenance, the Nightingal began to delight their ears with her sweet harmonious voice, and no sooner had she framed her self to speak, but the Birds were ready to give attendance to her speech, which was in this manner; Most Royal Soveraign, if I should declare my sorrows which I record by night, making the Thorn my Song-Book; I know it would move you to compassionate my unjust Ravishment, for know, that I was daughter to a King, and ravished by my sister Prognes husband, called, Tereneus, and afterwards (by some strange Power) we were all changed into Birds; Tereneus into a Lapwing, my sister Progne into a Swallow, and I Philomel into a Nightingal, who still in lamentable Tunes, setting my breast against a Thorn, I warble forth my own griet; And seeing every Bird hath free liberty to praise her self, I may boldly say, that I am the honour of the Woods, the Darling of the Spring, the Lovers joy, for young Men and Maids will walk out together to hear my Notes, and if they hear me before May-bird the Cuckoo, they are in good hope they shall enjoy their Sweet-hearts that year. I am called Philomel for my Melodious strains, my body is little, my voice is loud, so that one said of me, Voxes præterea nihil, That I was only a voice and nothing else. If therefore my great Birds, my former wrongs, or pleasant Tunes have any power to declare my merit, I hope the Crown and Scepter may be worthily resigned unto me, having been sometime a King's Daughter, and therefore fit to be made Queen of the Woods.

The Morral.

INjured Vertue is pitried of all men, which made *Philomel* declare the story of her Ravishment, and by the birds giving so diligent attention unto her, is shewed, That a well-delivered Speech, hath a great power over the mind and affections.

The

The *Cuckoo*'s Speech.

MAy-bird the Cuckoo, having heard the sweet Speech which Philomel had made, thinking he could have made as good himself, for yet he had not suckt so many Eggs to make him hoarse, and therefore getting upon a bare Bough, he began to wipe his Beak, and rub it upon the Tree, afterwards he fluttered his wings, and at last, fetching his breath as if he meant to make a long Speech, he began in this manner Great King, I am the Cuckoo, Cuckoo, Cuckoo, and so he could go no further, but still cryed Cuckoo, Cuckoo, whereat all the other Birds laugh'd, and the Cuckoo was much dismay'd, and since then he will never be seen of the Birds but onely in May, and for that reason he is called the May-bird.

The Morral.

THis shews, that great preparations have small performances; and that those, whose brains seem to be in labour with a Mountain, do at last bring forth a Mouse, as may be perceived by *May-bird* the *Cuckoo*, who made them believe, that he had great Matters to speak, and at last could say nothing but *Cuckoo*, *Cuckoo*, and so was laugh'd at for his Pains.

The Speech of *Corvino* the *Crow*.

WHen the Cuckoo had ended with shame, as she began with great ostentation. Then Corvino the Crow stood up, and told them he was a great Astrologer, having knowledge in the influence of the Stars, the shiftings of the Winds, the change of the Weather, all which he made known unto Men by voice, so that the Shepherds are wont to say,

When the *Crow* doth cry amain,
Then you may be sure of Rain.

Besides, my craft and cunning it is such, that I am seldom insnar'd and brought to ruine, and therefore I ought for my policy to be prefer'd. If a Horse chance to dye, I am presently upon his bones: or if a Lamb or Sheep be weak, I pick out his Eyes, and afterwards do flye to some Tree, and from thence do hear how the Shepherds Curse me,

but

but yet for all that I thrive the better. If therefore Policy or knowledge in Affairs may enable me for publick Government, you may make me your Subſtitude, and deliver the Crown unto the Crow, for to him it belongeth, if deſert may bear it away.

The Morral.

THoſe that have no Knowledge, will preſume many times to be profeſſors of Arts, ſo that every Art hath ſome ignorant Fellows, who will pretend to have skill therein, as Mountebanks will needs be Phyſitians; and Fellows, with a little Latine, will needs be Schollers, as the *Crow*, becauſe he cryes ſometimes before Rain, would therefore needs be an Aſtrologer.

The Speech of *Mavis* the *Magpy*.

THe Magpy after this began to chatter out her mind, ſaying, he was once a King, and ſo was changed into a Pye, and therefore he might now again be changed from a Pye into a King. Beſides, ſaith he, I have been always eſteemed as a Poet, for I can make Verſes, and chatter them out ſo faſt, that you would wonder at it; and I can tell you, the Common-wealth of birds have much delighted in my Songs and Ditties, being excellent Rhyme with ſome Reaſon, and therefore I think they have reaſon to applaud me: and for proof of my skill you ſhall hear ſome of my Verſes:

Although I am no Jack Daw,
Nor houſe Crow that cryeth Caw:
Yet I am a Magpy,
That can make ſweet Melody:
And ſing ſo in my Mothers Tongue,
That all Birds ſhall admire my Song.

And no ſooner had ſhe ſpoke theſe Verſes, but the Magpy ſeeing the Birds laugh at him, he knew they were very good lines, and that they had no more wit then Woodcocks, or elſe they would have prais'd them.

The Morral.

BEcauſe this Morral will be Offenſive to ſome *Magpies* in the World; I will deliver the Morral in two Verſes

Verſes out of *Perſius* the Poet, treating of the ſame matter.

Corvos Poetas, & Poetrias Picas,
Cantare credas, Pegaſcium melos.
Crow Poets, and Poetick Pyes,
Do think they make ſweet Melodies.

The Speech of *Anſer* the [redacted]

After this Anſer the Goo[redacted] Coby the [redacted] by chance heard the Proclamation as they were ſtanding under a hedge, they came flying thither, but being not able to light upon a Tree, the Gooſe and the Cock ſtood at the bottom of the Tree; which when the Eagle perceived, he came down to them, and all the Birds ſat round about upon the ground. Then the Gooſe began to ſpeak in this manner: Albeit I am eſteemed a Cowardly Bird, becauſe when I go under a Barn-door, I ſtoop down my head, yet I can ſpeak much in my own behalf: for to begin with former times, I only by my gagling voice ſav'd the Capitoll of Rome from being taken by the Enemy, as I know your Eagleſhip hath read in Hiſtories: beſides, if I come unto theſe times, how could the Lawyers, Clerks, or Scriveners, make the poor Country-men pay for their Law, unleſs I lent them Quills to write their Bills and Bonds. So that I think the Gray-Gooſe-wing may be as much feared now, as in the old time, when they headed their Arrows with my Feathers; for then many times they loſt their lives, and now their Lands, while the Sheep affords the Parchment, and I afford the Pen, with which the Prodigal ſets his hand to the Seal, or Mortgage of his whole Patrimony. Beſides, I have a great many two-legg'd Kindred in the world, who yet ſcorn to acknowledge me, but the world knows them to be Geeſe. And therefore conſidering how neceſſary I am, I hope you will give me Preheminence above the other Birds: After him the Cock ſpake as followeth.

Coby the *Cocks* Speech.

I Am Coby the Cock, or the Bird of Mars, I fight ſingle Combats, and from the Cock-pit I bear away the bloody Victory: I am the Country Clock, and tell the Maids when

when it is time to rise, I call up the labourer to his work, and proclaim day-light over the whole world. I am loving to my Hens, respected of my Dame that keeps me, and fed with the best Barley she could get, and in requital I tread her Hens lustily, and make them lay Eggs. To conclude, I am come of a generous kind, being the true Emblem of Valour, and so necessary, that the world could not tell how to do for Eggs at Shrovetide if the Cock should fail. And therefore if the matter might be decided by Voices, I know the Country Wives would desire to have me made King, for they do all love a good treading Cock.

The *Iackdaws* Speech.

Though I am last to take boldness to speak, yet I hope you will consider that I am an excellent Linguist, and have the knowledge of many Languages, so that when we Iackdaws are got together about a Steeple, we make a chattering noise like so many Welchmen. Besides, I have rich Treasure which lies hid in the Crown of a Tree, as namely, Beads, Tags of Points, Pewter Spoons, and divers other things, which I mean to present unto your Eagleship, for it is my nature to hide whatsoever I find. Besides, for my Language (as I said before) I can speak Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, Italian, as easily as my Mother tongue, but indeed few can understand me, and therefore I do lose that praise which I deserve. However, I hope you will consider my worthiness, and place me as your substitude, during the time that your Eagleship shall be absent in the Desert of Arabia. And so ends Iackdaw, praying for your long life; and to give you a taste of my Languages, *Levat le Roy* Τὸν βίον *fœlicissimum*.

CHAP. IV.

How the *Eagle* having heard the Birds several Speeches, did make a Speech to them again; and at last made his Cousin *Rapax* the *Hawk* Vice-regent in his absence.

The Eagle, like a wise King, having all this while collected the chief matter of their speeches, he began to speak unto them in this manner; My loving Subjects, I have

have heard what you have spoken, in the behalf of your selves. You Robert have pleaded well for your self, and so have you Lady Philomel, and all the rest, whose names for brevity sake I omit. But yet you have not shewed me any vertues worthy of Royal Dignity. For in that Philomel was a Kings Daughter, and Mavis the Pye was sometime a King, yet these are but the fictions of Poets, and I had rather have you make it appear, that your Breasts are filled with Justice, Temperance, Magnanimity, Mercy, and such other Vertues, which are required in a King. For to boast of Parentage, or gifts of Nature, as your fair white feathers, or of Art, as Languages, Learning, and the like, they may be esteemed Ornaments to private Men: but Princes should have Power to make them feared, and Vertue to make them be beloved, but in none of you I find these qualities: and therefore since you have all spoken your minds, I would fain know, why my Cousin Rapax the Hawk, hath sat mute all this while. The Hawk hearing himself named by the Eagle, answered thus; May it please your Highness, I know that my former offences, and bloody murders are so odious and hateful in the sight of the Birds, that I dare not open my Beak to pronounce a syllable in my own behalf. But yet might it please them to remit and forgive my former offences, and pardon what is past, I would promise (if so be your Majesty should make me your Subiect) to Rule over the Common-wealth of Birds, with Justice, Temperance, and Equity; instead of killing and slaying them with my Talons, I would protect them from the injury of Owls, and other Blood-suckers, who in the Winter Evening do pull the small Birds out of the Bushes, and so prey upon them, when they should spend their days peaceably, sing securely, sing sweetly, feed plentifully, and live merrily: And besides, as I have power to sway the Empire, so I promise to Rule over the Common-wealth of Birds, with Justice and Equity; and to give them the better assurance that I will not prove a Tyrant, I am willing to have my Talons pared off. Therefore if the Birds do like of my offer, to shew their Consent thereunto, let them clap

their Wings. Which was no sooner heard, but the Birds, on condition that the Hawks Talons should be pared off, they all cryed with one voice; *Fiat Rex Rapax*. Let the *Hawk* be King. *The Morral.*

A Cunning Dissembler will always cover his Vice with the death of Vertue, as may be seen by the *Hawks* Speech, promising to rule with Iustice amongst them, got so far into the opinion of the Birds, that they were content to chuse him King, to avoid further strife amongst themselves. Take heed therefore of fair Speeches, for all their words are mingled with dissimulation.

CHAP. V.

How *Rapax* the *Hawk* had his Talons pared off, and how the Eagle resigned his Scepter unto him, and made him King of the Birds.

After the Birds had consented to the Hawks Speech, the Hawk (because they had no edge Tools amongst them) put his Talons into the cleft of a Tree, and so never left pulling, till he had pulled them quite off, and yet the hope of Soveraignty was so sweet unto him, that he felt no pain therein. Being thus unable to hurt, the Eagle rose out of his Seat, and caused the Hawk to sit therein, and afterwards delivered his Scepter unto him, and put his Crown upon his head, and then charged him to remember his promise, which was, to have a care of his Subjects, and be loving unto them; as also to hear their Complaints, to redress their Grievances, and to yield them Relief. And this see you performe, as you render or respect your own life, for if at my return from the Arabian Desart, I find that you have wronged my Subjects, you shall be sure to dye for it. The Hawk answered, that he hoped his Majesty should commend him at his return, and not find any just cause of punishment, for though I have been heretofore counted cruel, and have plumed upon the Carkass of many a small Bird, as Larks, and Sparrows, and sometimes upon Doves, Partridges, Quails, and the like; yet now your Subjects shall

find

find me full of mercy, for indeed I was then enforced to be cruel by neceſſity. At theſe words the Eagle took wing; ſo taking ſome few Birds of note with him, he flew away, and when theſe Birds had accompanied him ſome part of the way, he ſent them back again, charging them to be carefull to obey the Hawk in all things. And ſo flew on to the Deſart of Arabia.

The Morral.

THe nature of man is given to ſeek honour, which he thinks to be ſufficient reward for all his ſufferings, as may appear by the *Hawk*, who could endure to pluck off his own Talons, in hope to be King.

CHAP. VI.

How the *Hawk* behaved himſelf after the departure of the *Eagle*, & how he requited *Cawwood* the *Rook* for teaching him to make away the *Buzzard*, as is ſhewn in the *1ſt chap.*

THe Eagle being gone, the Hawk behaved himſelf very lovingly for the firſt week; as Nero, the firſt five years of his Reign, was counted the beſt of Kings, but afterward he proved the worſt of Tyrants: ſo the Hawk diſſembled his nature for a week or two, but afterwards he had a great deſire to ſhed blood, and therefore he began to think how he might put Cawwood the Rook to death, and requite him for his former kindneſs in betraying the Buzzard, and making him ſtand blind-folded with a clout about his head, till one came by and ſhot him with a Birding-piece. Now to bring this to paſs, he called many of the little Birds together, and told them, that what cruelty he had formerly committed, was by the encouragement of the Rook, who made him believe, that ſeeing nature had allotted him no other food, it was lawful for him to prey upon all ſorts of Birds, and that now he was afraid leſt he ſhould put into his mind the ſame bloody principles again, and therefore to avoid ſuſpicion; My loving Subjects (ſaid he) if any of you can accuſe him of any hainous crime, (as I know he is guilty of many) I will grant you a day of hearing againſt him, that ſo (if he cannot clear himſelf) he may ſuffer the puniſhment of death, which is due unto his deſerts: No ſooner had the

Hawk ſpoken theſe words, but preſently they told his Majeſty, That they had every one cauſe to complain againſt him, and therefore if he were once ſummoned to the Court, they would be ready to accuſe him.

The Morral.

THey who imploy others in wickedneſs, never love them any longer, than till their own purpoſe is effected, as may appear by the *Hawk*, who ſought the life of the *Rook*, after he had us'd his invention to make away the *Buzzard*. So that he which furthers a Mans Vice, is beloved while it is doing; but is hated when it is done.

CHAP. VII.

How *Cawwood* the *Rook* was called to the Court to anſwer for himſelf, and how all the ſmall Birds brought their accuſations againſt him.

THe Hawk began now to make known his bloody nature, and therefore ſent Corvino the Crow, to ſummon the *Rook* to appear at the Court of Sylvia, who accordingly came at the day appointed, not doubting to receive any injury from the Hawk, being always his friend; and therefore not fearing that now being made King, he would uſe his power to his deſtruction, but it proved far otherwiſe, for no ſooner was Cawwood come into the Hawks preſence, but the Hawk commanded him to ſtand forth, and anſwer to ſuch matters as ſhould be laid againſt him, for, ſays he, friend Rook, there are many Complaints made againſt you, and I muſt do Juſtice as I promiſed the Eagle at his departure. When the Rook heard this, he began to change colour, and his feathers began to ſtand up an end, what, thought he, ſhall I be betrayed by a Traytor! yet at laſt, ſeeing no remedy, he was fain to ſtand to it, while the Birds gathered round about him, being all ready to complain againſt him; and firſt Rupert the Robin began his Indictment.

The Morral.

TYrants do always pretend an outward ſhew of Juſtice, as may be ſeen in the *Hawks* ſpeech to *Cawwood* the *Rook*, who being afraid thereof, doth ſhew that a guilty Conſcience is a thouſand witneſſes.

CHAP

CHAP. VIII.

How *Rupert* the *Robin* complained againſt *Cawwood* the *Rook*.

I Am glad that we ſmall Birds have now free liberty to ſhew our wrongs and grievances, which we have received from Cawwood the Rook, who upon a time brought me in danger of my life, for one day as he and I were walking in a field by a hedge ſide, we chanced to come where there was a Turff ſet up with two ſticks, and a little hole digged underneath it; I began to aſk him what it was? O ſays he, do you not know what this is? then you have loſt many a fair worm, for it is never without one or two, and therefore (ſays he) if you hop into the bottom of it, you ſhall find my words to be true: But (quoth I) is there no danger in it? O no (ſays he) I'le warrant you for danger: whereupon I believing him, leaped upon the forked ſtick, and no ſooner was I lighted thereon, but preſently the Turff fell upon my head, ſo that I was made cloſe Priſoner in the Pitfall, and there I continued, till at laſt a wagiſh Boy who had made the Pitfall, came and took me out, and with joy carried me to his Mother, but ſhe telling him it was ill luck to hurt a Robin; at laſt the Boy was content only to cut off my Tayl and let me flye, whereby I eſcaped the danger that the Rook had brought me into, and therefore I deſire that we may Juſtice on him.

The *Sparrows* Complaint.

WIth the ſame malicious mind (though not in the ſame manner) Cawwood the Rook brought me in danger and peril of my life; For one froſty morning there being a great many Ems-Traws ſet on a Dunghil, Cawwood the Rook went amongſt them, and ſpying me upon the top of a Barn, called me down unto him, and bid me come to him, for there were a great many Wheat Ears ſcattered on the ground, whereupon I being ſomewhat hungry, by reaſon of the cold froſty weather, came flying to him, and no ſooner had I begun to peck on one of the Ears, but ſtraight the end of one of the limed ſtraws caught me by the back, and another under the wing, ſo that I had much ado

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to get from thence, for when he had watcht the straws, saw me limed and taken, he came running out to catch me, but then with all the strength I had, I made towards a hedge, and having gotten into the bottom thereof, escaped the Fowlers hands: Thus I was betrayed by Cawwood the Rook, and I think there is no Bird but hath some accusation against him.

The Complaint of the *Woodcock*.

May it please you, I was once coming through a Wood, with this Traytor Cawwood the Rook, and as we went, there was two or three sticks set just cross the path, with one great bended stick, whereon was a noose of hair. And as we came to them, I asked the Rook what this meant? why, says he, it is a swing, whereon I am wont many times to stretch my self: at these words, like a Woodcock as I was, I went to take hold of the great stick, and thought to have swung upon it; but no sooner had I set my foot upon the Bridge, but the spring flew up, and caught me by one of the Legs, so that there I lay upright, and looking every hour when the Fowler would come to fetch me, and if the Hair noose had not broken, I had certainly long e're this been roasted, and served up to some rich mans table. The Woodcock had no sooner ended his complaint, but there came in a Thrush and a Sterling like maimed Souldiers, hopping upon one leg, and seeing Cawwood the Rook standing at the Bar, The Thrush (because she was the best speaker) began to tell their case, how that Cawwood the Rook made them believe that a Birding-piece was but a Pipe which men use to play upon, whereupon one morning a Fowler coming towards us with a Piece, we thinking to hear his Pipe, sate still, so that he taking his aim, discharged against us, and shot me in the leg, and my brother Sterling in the wing: Thus hath the Rook (with his craft) deceived us many times, and many a Bird hath he brought to an untimely end by his cunning. We beseech the Hawk therefore (who we hear is made Substitute in the Eagles absence) that he would punish the cruelty of the Rook.

CHAP

CHAP. IX.

How *Cawwood* the *Rook* would have answered for himself, but that *Rapax* the *Hawk* would not suffer him, but condemned him to perpetual Banishment.

When Rapax the Hawk had heard these Accusations against the Rook, he was glad thereof. And yet (as it is the nature of cunning Treachery) he seemed to pitty his Calamity; and told him, he was sorry to hear so many foul matters urged against him. I have always (says he) had a good Opinion of you, but I see how much we may be deceived. And I wish that some other might give Judgement on your Crimes and Offences; but yet since it hath pleased the Eagle to give me all Power, and to put the Scepter of Justice into my Talons, there shall no respect of Friendship sway me, and therefore you must look for no more mercy at my hands, than Justice will permit. For albeit you are my Friend, yet I must prove my self a Loyal Subject to the Eagle, who hath put me in trust to see Rewards and Punishments equally distributed amongst his Subjects, and this I take to be the true nature of Justice. At these words, the Rook began to prepare himself, and would fain have answered the Objections of his Adversaries; beginning to shew, That it was not his Craft, but their folly which brought them into danger; for (saith he) if Rupert the Robin will needs be peeping into a Pitfall, who can help it? or if the Woodcock will take a Springe for a Swing, it is not my cunning, but their simplicity, which brings them into danger; which by escaping, they have learned more wit, and so ought (in Justice) to give me thanks, for now they know how to avoid the like Perils hereafter. Besides all this, you that sit to Condemn me, ought not to seek my Life, but to save me from my Enemies: for you know, how (for your sake) I contrived an excellent Device to make away Haywell the Buzzard. But at that word, the Hawk commanded them to stop his mouth, and that with a Noose of their own Heads forthwith strangle him. Where-

the Rook saw there was no way but Death, he began to intreat for mercy: Whereupon the Hawk, considering better with himself, pronounced this Sentence against him; In regard that thou, Cawwood the Rook, hast highly transgressed and offended against the Common-wealth of Birds, by deceiving Phillip the Sparrow, Rupert the Robin, and Longbil the Woodcock, I do here banish thee out of the Country, and send thee to live for ever in the City. Since which time, the City hath been always full of Rooks: For no sooner was the Sentence given, but the Parliament of Birds broke up, and the Rook flew away to the City, where he hath ever since remained: There being divers sorts of Rooks, as for Example, your Cheating Gameller is a Rook, and your Fellows that Cheat Country-men are Rooks, the Tapster that fills not his Pot is a Rook, and he that drinks with you, and slips away when the Reckoning comes to be paid, is a Rook. And to Conclude, There are so many sorts of Rooks, that I cannot reckon them; for sometimes your Rook will be in the shape of a decay'd Gallant, sometimes in a thred-bare Cloak waiting at Bowling-Alleys, sometimes in a blew Jerkin like a Country man, and sometimes in the Market in the shape of a Cut-purse: And therefore I would have Country men buy this Book; for though it be The History of Cawwood the Rook, yet it will not cost them so dear, as the Acquaintance of the City Rooks.

The Morral.

CRafty Fellows, albeit they scape a great while, yet at last are brought to ruine and disgrace: for if they come once to publick Tryal, then all their Enemies are ready to accuse them; as appeareth by the *Rook*, who after all his cunning tricks, was at last banished to live in the City. So that your *Rook* is born in the Country, and bred in the City; and this is the Concluding *Morral* of this Chapter.

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FINIS.